

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 INSE-00
VO-03 CIAE-00 SY-05 DODE-00 DEAE-00 NSC-05 /051 W
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R 151200Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONGEN HONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 33812

DEPT FOR D/HA/ORM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, TH
SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROCESSING FOR
INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES

REF: A) STATE 299088 B) HONG KONG 14379 C) BANGKOK 29214(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: POST ENDORSES PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR CONDITIONAL
ENTRY PROCESSING OF BOAT REFUGEES. END SUMMARY:

1. OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THAILAND HAS BEEN LIBERAL IN
ACCEPTING BOAT REFUGEES ON A MORE PERMANENT BASIS. PREVIOUSLY,
REFUGEES WERE REQUIRED TO REMAIN ON THEIR BOATS. THE RTG HAS
NOW CONSOLIDATED BOAT REFUGEES IN TWO MAIN LOCATIONS,
SONGKHLA FOR SOUTHERN BOATS, AND LAEM SING FOR NORTHERN BOATS.
EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE BULK OF THE 100 CE NUMBERS
AVAILABLE MONTHLY WILL PROBABLY BE DISBURSED INITIALLY
AS NEEDED ELSEWHERE TO ENTICE OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT
BOAT REFUGEES ON HUMANITARIAN BASIS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF
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THE FACT THAT THAILAND HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY GENEROUS

IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE NEW PLAN WILL IMPEDE THE RESETTLEMENT FLOW OF OTHER REFUGEES FROM THAILAND. THAILAND PRESENTLY HAS APPROXIMATELY 80 BOAT CASES AND 500 LAO AND CAMBODIAN POST-30 JUNE REFUGEE CASES THAT MEET THE CRITERIA. TO APPEAL TO THE THAI AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, WE BELIEVE AN UPWARD TREND IN ALLOCATION OF CE NUMBERS FOR THAILAND WILL BE NECESSARY OVER THE LONGER TERM.

2. EMBASSY FORESEES NO PROBLEMS WITH PROPOSED IN-COUNTRY PROCEDURES. MOI DIRECTOR FOR DISPLACED PERSONS, COL KAMOL PRACHUABMOH, AGREED TO ALLOW PRESCREENED BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHO APPEAR TO MEET U.S. CRITERIA TO BE BROUGHT TO BANGKOK FOR CONSULAR INTERVIEWS. IF NOT APPROVED FOR U.S. PROGRAM, THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE CAMPS. COL. KAMOL REQUESTED THAT (1) UNHCR ARRANGE IN-COUNTRY MOVEMENT; (2) ICEM HANDLE THESE CASES IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE REGULAR REFUGEES BEING BROUGHT TO BANGKOK FOR OUTPROCESSING, AND (3) NO PUBLICITY SHOULD BE MADE AS IT TENDS TO BE A MAGNET FOR PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE INDOCHINA COUNTRIES.

3. ON QUESTION OF PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM, EMBASSY SUPPORTS HONG KONG'S REQUEST FOR AN INS OFFICER WHO CAN CIRCULATE TO POSTS IN THE REGION (REF B). OUR OWN NEEDS REMAIN THOSE STATED IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF REF C. WHITEHOUSE

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